KHARIF-2000

State	Crop	Number of Farmers	Sum insured (Rs.)
Orissa	Paddy	76+Govt. Farm 17	2655288
Gujarat	Groundnut		1724526
TOTAL:		93+Govt. Farms	4379814

RABI 2000-2001

State	Crop	Number of Farmers	Sum insured (Rs.)
Karnataka	Jowar-Hybrid	15	469050
TOTAL:		15	469050

RABI 2001-2002

State	Crop	Number of Farmers	Sum insured (Rs.)
Madhya Pradesh	Wheat Gram	Govt. Farms Govt. Farms	65490
TOTAL:			277190

Fund for drought hit farmers

3131. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to create Rs. 500 crore fund, for providing relief package to drought-hit farmers; and

(b) if so, what are the details of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICUTLURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) There is already a National Calamity Contingency Fund to assist the State Governments to finance expenditure on relief in the event of natural calamities which cannot be allocated within the balance available in the Calamity Relief Fund of the States. This fund has been created in pursuance of the Eleventh Finance Commission for the period 1st April, 2000 to

31st March, 2005.The Commission recommended that this fund should be operated from the proceeds of surcharge on certain Central Taxes, irrespective of any monetary ceiling.To begin with, the Commission had provided Rs. 500 crores to be made available initially from the Central Budget.

Conversion of waste land *vis-a-vis* employment generation

†3132.SHRIKAPILSIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 120 million people of the country can be provided employment, by converting the waste land of the country into cultivable land;

(b) if so, the assessment of Government in this regard; and

(c) the names of States where such waste land is available and the State-wise number of persons who can be provided employment, after its conversion into cultivable land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYANYADAV): (a) to (c) As per the 'Wastelands Atlas of India 2000' brought out by the Department of Land Resources using remote sensing satellite data, the total extent of wastelands/ degraded land in the country is 63.85 million hectare. During Tenth Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 4400.00 crore is allocated for three major schemes of the Department Programme, Desert Development Programme and Drought Prone Area Programme for development of wasteland. In addition, two watershed development programmes namely National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas & Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in Catchments of River Valley Project & Flood Prone Rivers are also being implemented by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in which allocations are being made by State Governments out of total fund allocated under Macro Management Mode. Under these schemes employment is generated as **a** result of development of such lands. The State-wise details of extent of Wasteland in the country is annexed as Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.